

THE GULL



Golden Gate Audubon Society Berkeley, California Volume 73 Number 5 May 1991

A BIOLOGIST TURNS CONSERVATION BIOLOGIST IN COSTA RICA

Set against the backdrop of the Lomas Barbudal National Park of Costa Rica, Professor Gordon Frankie will describe his 22-year involvement in biology and conservation at our May 9th meeting in Berkeley. Because of an abundance of water, this tropical dry forest has a rich biodiversity which includes over 200 species of birds.

As a researcher studying biological phenomena of this unique tropical ecosystem in the late sixties and seventies, Dr. Frankie realized that most of the rich diversity would soon be lost to agriculture and grazing land if something wasn't done. Dr. Frankie had to decide between going somewhere else to continue his biological studies, or doing something to conserve the biologically unique and rare ecosystem he was studying. Friends of Lomas Barbudal was established to promote conservation and protection of the area. Dr. Frankie will talk about their successful efforts in fire management, reforestation, development of a conservation education program for the local people and establishment of a visitor's center with international importance. He will also offer his insights on how to get environmental conservation implemented in Latin America, and social, political and biological issues involved.

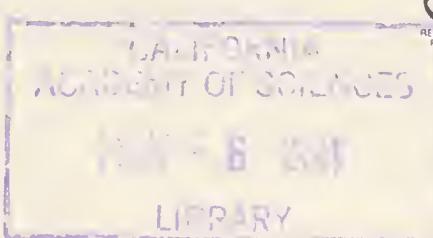
Dr. Frankie is professor of entomology at UC Berkeley, a position he has held since 1976. He has been conducting research and leading conservation efforts in Costa Rica since his first visit there in 1968.

Come learn about the diverse wildlife and plant life of Costa Rica's tropical dry forest, and about his successful conservation effort. The program will begin at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, May 9, 1991 at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda in Berkeley.

—JOELLA BUFFA

—THIS GULL, DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHER GULLS

On recycled paper and printed with soy ink, *The GULL* is at last ecologically correct.



FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

Saturday, May 4—Birding by Ear. Briones Regional Park. (Dave Corman)

Sunday, May 5—Wildcat Canyon Regional Park. (Malcolm Sproul)

Sunday, May 5—Point Reyes N.S.: Meet at Five Brooks Stable Trail-head—about 3.5 miles south of Olema. (Markowitz/Ackerman)

Wednesday, May 8—Mini-trip to Briones Regional Park. (Wilcox/Spoelman)

Saturday, May 11—Jack London State Park. (Scalf)

For details on the above trips see *The GULL* for April.

Sunday, May 12—Mt. Diablo State Park. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Rock City parking lot—one mile after passing through the South Gate entrance station. Take Hwy. 24 to Walnut Creek then go south on I-680 to Danville. Take the Diablo Rd. exit, go left under the freeway and follow signs to Mt. Diablo State Park.

We will look for Rufous-crowned and Sage Sparrows, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, swifts, swallows, woodpeckers and warblers. Riparian habitat should be good this year! Bring lunch and liquids. Trip ends about 1 p.m. Leader: David George (339-0765) \$ (✓)

Saturday, May 18—Bouverie Preserve. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot inside the preserve. From either side of the Bay go north to Sonoma. Stay on Hwy. 12 for six miles beyond Sonoma and watch for the Forestry Fire Station on the left, and the sign to Sonoma

Valley Park. Continue one-quarter mile more on Hwy. 12 to the Bouverie Preserve (BAP) entrance on the right.

This 400 acre preserve is known for its flowering plants (over 350 species) as well as 100 bird species. This docent led trip will be a combination of Golden Gate Audubon and Madrone Audubon Society members. Participation is limited and is by reservation only. Call Russ Wilson at 524-2399, by Friday, May 10. Trip will end about 1:30 p.m. Bring lunch and liquids. (✓)

Sunday, May 19—Beginners' Trip to Mountain Lake, San Francisco. Meet at the parking lot at the end of 15th Ave. (just north of Lake St.) at 8 a.m. Bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them. We expect to see three or four species of swallows plus a variety of waterbirds and landbirds during this two-hour walk. Leader: Anna Marie Bratton (755-7925)

Friday-Sunday, May 31-June 2—Birding by Ear in Yosemite. The lower and middle elevations of Yosemite National Park are alive with singing birds in early June. A variety of habitats support a rich diversity of birdlife, typically including seven flycatchers (four Empidonax) three vireos, seven warblers, and many other species in full song and breeding plumage. Meet at the Big Oak flat entrance on Friday, May 31 at 3 p.m., and Saturday, June 1 at 7 a.m. (If you arrive later Saturday morning, meet the group in Hodgdon Meadow behind the Hodgdon Meadow Group Campsites.) The meeting place is the large parking lot 100 yards inside the park entrance on Hwy. 120.

Nearby campgrounds include Hodgdon Meadow (res. required) and Crane Flat in the Park, Carlon and Middle Fork (primitive Forest Service) on the road to Hetch Hetchy, and Sweetwater on Hwy. 120. Lodging on Hwy. 120 includes Yosemite Gatehouse (209/379-2260), Evergreen Lodge (209/379-2606), Lee's Middle Fork (209/962-7408), and Buck Meadows Lodge (209/962-6366). The meeting place is 30 miles from Yosemite Valley.

Bring warm clothes, raingear, rubber boots (wet meadows), be prepared to pack a lunch and walk about six miles. Leader: Dave Cornman (825-2106) \$(✓)

Saturday-Sunday, June 8-9—Yuba Pass and vicinity. On Saturday meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Yuba Pass Summit parking area (Hwy. 49) 15 miles east of Sierra City. Take I-80 to Truckee, go north on Hwy. 89 to Sierraville and take Hwy. 49 west to Yuba Summit. (Or take Hwy. 49 northeast from Auburn.) We will bird the mountain areas for summer residents including flycatchers, warblers and Calliope Hummingbirds.

On Sunday meet at 8 a.m. at the intersection of Hwy. 49 and 89 (by the saw mill) about 1 mile north of Sattley. We will caravan to Sierra Valley and look for many of the birds of the eastern Sierra including White-faced Ibis, Sandhill Cranes, Sage Thrashers and Yellow-headed Blackbirds.

Camping is available at the following U.S. Forest Service campgrounds off Hwy. 49: Wild Plum (elev. 3300') 2 mi. east of Sierra City, and Chapman Creek (elev. 5800') 8 mi. east of Sierra City. Lodging is available at Sierra City: Sierra Chalet (916-862-1110), Buttes Motel (916-862-1170), Herrington's Sierra Pines (916-862-1151), Basset Station Motel (916-862-1297), Sierra Buttes Inn Motel (916-862-1191), and Yuba River Inn (916-862-1122). Leader: Peter Allen (892-8063). (✓)

Wednesday, June 12—Mini-trip to Redwood Regional Park. Meet at the park at 9:30 a.m. Take the Warren Freeway, exit onto Redwood Rd. and proceed east about three miles to Redwood Gate, southern entrance to the park. Leave the cars at the small parking lot just inside parking lot on left. Bring lunch. We should see Black-headed Grosbeak, Swainson's Thrush, Northern Oriole, Solitary, Hutton's and Warbling Vireos. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (351-9301) and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

Trips marked with \$ go to parks and other sites that require an entrance fee.

Carpooling arrangements will be attempted for trips marked (✓).

Problems: If you need a ride or can take a passenger, or if you need information and have difficulty contacting a field trip leader, call Russ Wilson, Field Trips Committee Chmn. (524-2399).

Plan Ahead:

June 15-16—Mono Basin. Leaders: Helen and Paul Green.

June 21-23—Lassen Volcanic National Park. Leaders: Dan and Joan Murphy.

Aug. 8-11—Backpacking to Snag Lake, Lassen Volcanic National Park. Leaders: David Rice and Robin Pulich.

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

THANKS FOR MAKING BAY BIRDATHON 1991 A SUCCESS

BAY BIRDATHON 1991 will be a fond memory by the time you read this. The Birdathoners will have seen and heard all the birds and the team sponsors will have sent in their pledge payments (early and often). Anticipating the glow of a successful Birdathon, I want to take a moment to thank (in no particular order) all the folks who have contributed to that success.

The members of the Bay Birdathon 1991 Committee for making it possible to help save Mono Lake: Ann Dewart, Allen Fish, Lizabeth Gluck, Helen Green, Paul Green, Alan Hopkins, Harrison Karr, Lina Prairie and Emilie Strauss. Helen and Paul Green, for hosting all the meetings of the Birdathon Committee. The Mono Lake Committee, Martha Davis and Liz Fishman, for their advice and support. Barbara Rivenes, as always. The Birdathon Teams, the members of which are too numerous to list, and all of whom are "nice." All the sponsors of those Teams. You have shown your commitment to an important conservation cause. Avenue Books, Diesel Books, Audubon Canyon Ranch's Book Nest and Rand McNally for helping us to publicize the Birdathon and the crisis at Mono Lake. The Mono Lake Foundation and SoundCat, for donations of prizes. Sophie Webb, Janet Wessel and Laura McKeegan, for the T-shirt design and productions. And everyone else I should have thanked, but accidentally neglected.

—STEVE MARGOLIN

BUFFLEHEADS AVAILABLE



We are pleased to make available to all members the official Bay Birdathon 1991 T-shirt, which features a pair of Buffleheads, drawn by Sophie Webb. Sophie is the artist painting the plates for the long-awaited new Field Guide to the Birds of Mexico, to be published by Oxford University Press in 1992. Janet Wessel did the hand lettering for

the T-shirt and Laura McKeegan the silkscreening. Sophie, Janet and Laura are the team who produced the popular Not-So-Oldsquaws birdathon T-shirt.

The Bufflehead T-shirt is available either in black with white printing or light blue with black printing, in sizes medium, large and extra-large. The shirt is beefy 100% cotton. Supplies are limited, so send you order in early to the GGAS office. A check payable to GGAS for \$12 per shirt should accompany your order.

MARCH OBSERVATIONS

The world at large, at least in poetry and song, celebrates the merry month of May, which, if you've been snow-bound for months, signals the time to throw off your clothes and your cares and bubble into spring. Around here, the snows don't usually bind and it's March, not May, when the plums blossom, the air softens, the song-birds return and it's time to embrace spring. Orioles, swallows, Western/Pacific Slope Flycatchers, Warbling Vireos and Wilson's Warblers are all back, the hills are green from all the rain, the wild-flowers are blooming and life is wonderful. Or at least the illusion is there for a little while.

* * * * *
March, 1991, could be dubbed "Laysan Albatross Month"—the bird at Whiskeytown Reservoir in Shasta County, first discovered on the 15th and found dead on the 24th (BY, DWh, KGH, mob), was reported on the front page of the *Chronicle* and was sought and seen by many. Even those who have never given any bird a second thought found it hard to mistake this magnificent creature with its seven-foot wing-span and buoyant flight for a gull. How it got there is anybody's guess; one whimsical suggestion was that it was brought from Eureka in the back

of a '68 Chevy station-wagon, although one hopes that doesn't approach the truth—pranks and albatross don't belong in the same sentence. Mistaken good-Samaritanism also can't be ruled out—the "if it has webbed feet take it to some nice calm body of water" school of thought. Then early on the morning of April 1, Leora Feeney received what she thought was an April Fool's prank call, but decided to check anyway and found a bill-clacking Laysan Albatross sitting in the middle of an industrial area of Alameda surrounded by gawkers. The bird was lightly oiled, but appeared healthy so she bundled it into a large container and put it in the back of her camper for the trip to the Lindsay Junior Museum. The albatross wanted nothing to do with dark and quiet and quickly clambered out of the box and nestled into the surrounding blankets where it remained watching the view from the window all the way to Walnut Creek. At last word, the bird was being force-fed squid and was scheduled to be released by PRBO over the weekend. Albatross are notorious ship followers and not infrequently ride all the way into port, particularly if receiving generous hand-outs. We appear to be the beneficiaries of such goings on.

On a more usual note, sea watches from Pigeon Pt. on the 6th, 15th and 19th produced up to three Black-footed Albatross, a Short-tailed Shearwater and fourteen Black-legged Kittiwakes (BS fide RSTh). Observers noted Northern Fulmars, normally a pelagic species, inside SF Bay off Palo Alto on the 20th (LWi) and off Hayward on the 23rd (RJR). One Emperor Goose remained on SE Farallon through the 28th (fide KH); the Pt. Reyes bird was last reported on the 10th (LLu). The Eurasian form of Green-winged Teal was seen at Bolinas Lagoon through the

month (DES, DaS fide KH); at the south end of Tomales Bay on the 10th (RS, AD, JEW); and in the Novato Marshes from the 13th to the 23rd (MLR, NA). There was a veritable invasion of Tufted Ducks: the Sutro Baths bird remained thru the 16th (mob); the Warm Springs (Alameda County) bird was seen again on the 9th (LRF); a male was at Lake Merritt from the 14th to the 22nd (mob); one was at Rodeo Lagoon on the 15th (SyB); and two were in Vallejo—a male on the 16th (MBG) and a female/im-mature from the 21st to the end of the month (KGi, CLO). A female King Eider was reported from Monterey on the 18th (fide DR fide RStH).

Up to three Blue Grouse were on Rockpile Rd. in Sonoma County from the 19th to the 27th (AdW, JSC). Eight Lesser Golden Plovers remained at the Spaletta Plateau (FGB) with another five on Woodbridge Rd. in San Joaquin County (DGY). A Black-necked Stilt at Johnson's Oyster Farm at Pt. Reyes on the 1st was a good bird for Western Marin (DRI). Rock Sandpipers remained at Pebble Beach (MLR, RCa, SyB) and Princeton Harbor (mob), while a Baird's Sandpiper, more usual in the fall, was a harbinger of spring at Redwood Shores (RSTh). The im-mature Franklin's Gull continued to be seen in Milpitas thru the 22nd (mob) and another was found in Stockton from the 11th to the 13th (DGY, GFi, SGi, FGB). An adult Little Gull was spotted with hundreds of Bonaparte's Gulls at SF Bay NWR on the 31st (PJM). Glaucous Gulls continued to abound.

A Costa's Hummingbird arrived at a feeder near Pt. Reyes Station on the 8th and still remained at the end of the month, unusually near the coast and unusually far north (RS). A Rufous Hummingbird made himself at home at a couple of feeders in Berkeley on the 4th (HG). A Lewis' Woodpecker, out of its

inland milieu, was a nice sight in Olema from the 6th to the 23rd (KH, LLu, MiF, NA). The Red-naped Sapsucker continued to be seen on Gazos Creek Rd. thru the 19th (BS fide RSTh, MLR) while a Red-breasted Sapsucker of the more northerly *ruber* subspecies showed up on the 13th (RSTh). Fresno continued to harbor the Eastern Phoebe (KH).

A molting male Summer Tanager came to a suet feeder in Oakland through the month, providing all-around good looks as the feeder and clinging bird rotated in lazy circles (ND). A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak showed up at a feeder in Woodside on the 31st (BB). The two Clay-colored Sparrows remained at Pine Gulch Creek thru the month (RS) as did the one in Half Moon Bay (GDeg) while a Harris' Sparrow was at a feeder in Fresno County from the 20th to the 23rd (DN).

OBSERVERS: Nanette Armstrong, Sy Baldwin, Florence G. Bennett, Barbara Bessey, D. Carroll, J. Scott Cox, Gary Deghi, Ann Dewart, Nancy Dutcher, Leora R. Feeney, Mike Feighner, George Finger, Keith Gish, Steve Glover, Helen Green, Marguerite B. Gross, Keith Hansen, Kevin G. Hintsa, Les Lieurance, many observers (mob), Peter J. Metropulos, Dan Nelson, Charles L. O'Connor, Bob Pann, Robert J. Richmond, Dave Rintaul, Don Roberson, Mary Louise Rosegay, Barry Sauppe, David Sibley, Donald E. Schmoldt, Rich Stallcup, Ronald S. Thorn, Adrian Wander, Janet E. Wessel, David Wharton, Len Wittlinger, David G. Yee, Bob Yutzy.

—ANN DEWART

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE

The Park Police at Aquatic Park in San Francisco report that the fast-food outlet is permanently closed, and the

structure will be modified as a visitor's center. The free-loading Great-tailed Grackle probably has relocated to another source of hand-outs. Does anyone know where it has gone?

CONSERVATION NOTES WRITE NOW

The property adjoining ACR's Cypress Grove Preserve to the south is for sale. Needless to say, its eventual development would be a threat to Tomales Bay and to our sanctuary. This parcel, known as the Dunn Property, is now first on the acquisition list for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Its purchase will help preserve the Tomales Bay Estuary as a critical environmental community on the central California coast. We urge you to write letters to Congressional Representatives Barbara Boxer and Nancy Pelosi, and to Senators Alan Cranston and John Seymour. Share your concern for the preservation of Tomales Bay. Let these representatives know you support the purchase of the Dunn Property for inclusion in the GGNRA. Send a copy of your letter to your own representative as well.

It is not likely this beautiful property will remain available for another year. Please write now to help assure appropriations are made for this vital addition to GGNRA.

—DAN MURPHY

SAY NO TO THE GOVERNOR

The 4-lane toll road planned for the Bay Area is an 85-mile State Toll Road proposed to go along the eastern edge of Alameda, Contra Costa and Solano counties. (We alerted you to this assault last month in *The GULL* on p. 53.)

The route will take it through, or close to, rare vernal pools that host an endangered freshwater "fairy" shrimp and through habitat hosting 20 other

endangered species. It will also go through prime agricultural land, opening it up to development, through historic archaeological resources, and through important wetlands along the Delta.

Furthermore, it is possible that all this could be done without going through an environmental review process as is usually required by CEQA, the California Environmental Quality Act. Instead, the Toll Road Company intends to use existing environmental documents that were performed for small segments of the entire road (and those segments were evaluated only as small country two lane roads not large cross county high use 4-lane roads). This would allow them to ignore the cumulative impacts of the entire toll road, and many other environmental impacts.

Finally, this road is not identified by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission as a regional priority and it will not serve the needs of existing urban areas. It is a road designed to bring urban sprawl into our natural and agricultural areas.

Senator Bill Lockyer has introduced Senate Bill 144. This bill would prohibit public funding of new toll roads. This would be a major step forward in ensuring wise use of the toll road concept and would prevent the use of public funds in constructing this unneeded and environmentally damaging road. It may stop this wetland destroying toll road entirely.

This bill has already been approved by the State Senate. Unfortunately, Governor Pete Wilson has indicated that he plans to veto this legislation.

We need your help to convince Governor Wilson that he should sign SB 144 into law. Please write:

Governor Pete Wilson
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Ask him to sign SB 144 prohibiting public funding of new toll roads. You may wish to add that the building of new toll roads will not solve our State's transit problems. Increased funding for transit alternatives for existing urban areas rather than new roads into undeveloped lands must be the solution.

It is terribly important that you write!! Thanks for your help.

—ARTHUR FEINSTEIN
Conservation Chairman



MYTH: "There's plenty of wilderness for everybody. We don't need this small piece of it."

FACT: Less than four per cent of the original US wilderness remains. The Arctic Refuge's coastal plain is virtually the last stretch of arctic coastline of Alaska not open for development.

MYTH: "The country needs oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to ensure a secure energy future."

FACT: There is at best a one in five chance of finding an economically recoverable quantity of oil under the refuge's coastal plain. Even that

amount will take at least ten years to reach production.

MYTH: "The oil industry has an excellent environmental record at Prudhoe Bay, the Endicott field, and other Alaskan oil fields."

FACT: In 1986 alone, 64 million gallons of toxic drilling waste were discharged directly on the tundra by north slope operations. The *Exxon Valdez* spilled 11 million gallons of Alaskan oil.

BACK YARD BIRDER

Rest assured. I have not run out of column ideas. Due to several letters, this month will be a grab bag of subjects.

A nice note from my inspiring bird leader, Barbara Bedayn, pointed out that I had misspelled Steller's Jay. I had made it Stellar's as in star-like. In fact, the bird was named in honor of George Steller, a German naturalist who accompanied Vitus Bering on the trip which discovered what is now known as Bering Strait. Sorry, George! And, thanks, Barbara. I believe in accuracy.

Our Arctic December brought a letter from Barbara Deutsch of S. F. She was concerned about the insect-eaters and wondered how to supplement the diets of Bushtits, kinglets, and warblers—especially without attracting starlings and jays. The latter is probably a lost cause. I will say, however, that when you first put out food, the jays will find it and then will broadcast their find to the other birds. They also provide another service, scattering food for the ground feeding birds. I have limited experience with starlings—which is bound to change since I've just noticed they've moved into the neighborhood. Very distressing!

I'm probably opening a can of worms (sorry—I couldn't resist the term!) but

maybe some of you have some bird feeding secrets to share. I'll collect them and pass them on. Meanwhile, Barbara D. said she had limited success with suet in a mesh bag, attracting only Audubon's Warblers. She also found that Hermit Thrushes enjoyed dried cherries with the pits left in them. Starlings preferred the pits removed!

We know that individual birds, just like individual people, prefer different food items at any given time. They are definitely opportunists who exploit whatever is available. E.g., when there is a huge emergence of 13 or 17-year cicadas, many birds will gorge themselves on this bounty.

Diets also differ from place to place, so that Yellow Warblers in Nebraska crave grasshoppers while the same species in Massachusetts love plant lice and Gypsy moth larvae. While they are enjoying winters in Central America, they gobble fruit! Naturally there are limits to *what* a bird will eat. Vultures will never become nectar-eaters, warblers won't eat fish nor will gulls eat tennis balls (although they might try! We spent a night at the East Brother Lighthouse bed and breakfast and our hosts told us that the Western Gulls return to the island with tennis balls which they drop on the rocks hoping they will break open like ordinary eggs.)

Carbohydrates and fats are mainly energy sources but proteins are necessary during reproduction, growth and molting. During the breeding season even herbivores such as sparrows often provide their young with an insects-only diet. Insect-eaters do the same but when insects aren't as abundant in fall and winter they become omnivorous, enjoying berries and other plants. Hummingbirds require insects for protein to balance their energy-rich but nitrogen-poor intake of nectar. It is

Mono Lake: A mystery?

"Half a dozen little mountain brooks flow into Mono Lake," said Mark Twain, "but not a stream of any kind flows out of it. What it does with its surplus water is a dark and bloody mystery." There is no mystery today, for there is no surplus water. The lake that is so alive with grebes, phalaropes, California gulls and snowy plovers, may soon become a dead sea.

During 40 years of water diversions by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the lake dropped 45 vertical feet. Its volume decreased by half and its salinity doubled. Although diversions have been stopped temporarily by court action, the level continues to fall due to low rainfall. As the level falls, salinity continues to increase. In as little as 10 to 25 years, the lake will become too salty for the survival of brine shrimp, the crucial food supply for Mono Lake's immense flocks of birds.

Today the lake's surface elevation stands below 6,375 feet--just a few feet above the level at which Negit Island becomes connected to the mainland by a land bridge. When this occurred in 1979, coyotes invaded the island and routed its 33,000 nesting California gulls, and preyed on their eggs and chicks. The gulls did not return to the island until 1985, after a very wet winter which raised the lake level high enough to cover the land bridge.

The Mono Lake Committee's long and arduous legal battle to preserve Mono Lake is far from won. Golden Gate Audubon Society and Marin Audubon Society have again joined together in the National Audubon Birdathon to raise funds for the Mono Lake Committee and National Audubon's Mono Lake Legal Fund. At least 80% of the net proceeds will benefit Mono Lake. The balance will be used for Chapter activities.

You can help bring the mystery back to Mono Lake. Please support Bay Birdathon 1991.

BAY BIRDATHON 1991



BAY BIRDATHON 1991

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY

MARIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

PLEDGE FORM

YES, I WANT TO HELP SAVE MONO LAKE!

I PLEDGE TO SPONSOR ONE (OR MORE) OF THE FOLLOWING BIRDATHON TEAMS AT THE RATE OF
\$ _____ PER SPECIES. CONTACT ME AFTER THE APRIL 20 BIRDATHON TO COLLECT MY PLEDGE.

ALLEN'S HUMMERS. Allen Fish, Joe DiDonato, John Keane, Sally Mills, Dave Riensche.

BODEGA BAY BUSHTWITS. Nancy Conzett, Betty Burridge, Martha Davis.

BUBO BRAINS. Karen Allen, Kristin Ramsey, John McConnell.

CASUAL VAGRANTS. Janet Linse, Mark Homrighausen.

CHEEP TRILLS. Dave Quady, Bob Lewis, Pat O'Brien.

ENVIRONMENTALISTS, a walking big day. Alan Hopkins, Jan Anderson, Lee Elias, Mark Elliott.

GREAT BASIN BUSH-BEATERS (a Mono Lake team). Melanie Findling, Joan Humphrey, Shannon Nelson, Bob Damschroder & friends.

HUFFING PUFFINS. Tom Spillane, Nicki Spillane, Pete White, Dolores White & friends.

MINES ROADRUNNERS. Janet Walker, Peter Allen, Elizabeth Gluck, & participants in Marin Audubon's April 20 Mines Road field trip; call Peter at 892-8063 for information.

MURPHY'S MOB. Dan Murphy & you, if you show up for this field trip in San Francisco with Golden Gate Audubon; call Dan at 564-0074 for details.

NOT-SO-OLDSQUAWS. Ann Dewart, Helen Green, Lina Jane Prairie, Emilie Strauss, Janet Wessel.

OLD COOTS. Paul Green, David Rice, Humphrey Clayton, Peter Watkins.

SEMI-PULVERIZED PLOVERS. Rich Stallcup, Dave DeSante, Paul Green.

SO-WHAT OWLS. Steve & Renee Margolin, Arthur Feinstein, Ruth Vose, Barbara Salzman, Bruce Walker, Jean Thomas.

TOMALES BAY TROUPERS. Gayanne Enquist.

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO!!

We need to flood Congress with letters, telegrams and phone calls with the message that wetlands are a great national treasure and we oppose any weakening of protection for them. We are presently losing wetlands at the rate of 300,000-400,000 acres a year with our existing imperfect protection system. So please write to your Congressperson (Delhums, Pelosi, Boxer, or Miller) and to both of your Senators (Seymour and Cranston). Letters in your own words about the importance of wetlands for fisheries, habitat for wildlife and endangered species, flood control, water quality, etc. are the single most effective thing you can do. The situation is so serious, we need to let all of our federal elected officials know of our feelings ! If time is short please make a phone call to either the district office of your elected official or call his/her DC office. The Washington D.C. Capitol Switchboard number is 1-202-224-3121.

In your message to your Congressperson include, "Please oppose the Hayes bill, HR 1330, which would eliminate and reduce protection for millions of acres of wetlands, in particular many of our Bay Area wetlands. Please do not cosponsor this bill, and vote against it should the opportunity arise." (In your own words if possible.)

Your message to your Senators should include, "We are expecting Senator John Breaux (D-LA) to introduce a bill like HR 1330. Please do not cosponsor this bill. It is a wet-

WETLAND ACTION ALERT

IF YOU VALUE OUR WETLANDS YOU MUST ACT NOW ! THIS IS THE MOST
IMPORTANT WETLAND ISSUE FOR THIS DECADE !!

We need your help. If you don't act now all of our hard work to protect our Bay's seasonal wetlands, our lawsuits to preserve the Oakland Airport and Distribution Center wetlands, all will go for naught. Please read this action alert, and ACT !!
(Most of this alert is quoted from a National Audubon Action Alert.)

Just when you were thinking that frogs were sleeping more safely in their beds with the President committed to "No Net Loss" of wetlands, a well orchestrated assault on wetlands threatens to gravely weaken existing federal wetlands protection. All citizens who care about protecting our nation's wetlands need to raise their voices to Congress right away !! Here's what is happening:

A well financed coalition of industry groups including the Farm Bureau, oil and chemical industry, timber industry, homebuilders, and road construction lobby have been hammering on congress, the governors and the White House for several months claiming that Section 404 (§404) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), which protects wetlands, is causing all kinds of problems for farmers and developers.

duced a litany of complaints against the CWA and § 404 in particular. EPA Administrator Bill Reilly ran into a buzz saw on wetlands at the first hearing on the CWA reauthorization in the House Public Works Committee last week.

- The Hayes (D-LA) bill, H.R. 1330 would destroy wetlands protection as we know it, although the bill is deceptively titled "Comprehensive Wetlands Conservation and Management Act of 1991". Momentum is building for this bill which already has 53 cosponsors. A companion bill by Senator John Breaux (another Democrat from Louisiana) will soon be introduced. Breaux claims he already has 30 cosponsors for his bill and is demanding early action by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

These bills would: designate the Corps as the sole regulatory authority and eliminate EPA's ability to veto Corps 404 permits (it was the EPA that stopped Two Forks Dam in Colorado and that helped us in our Oakland Airport and Distribution Center cases); redefine wetlands to eliminate seasonal wetlands and other similar non-tidal wetland types (this would remove 50% of our Bay's wetlands from Corps' jurisdiction); create a system of high, medium and low value wetlands and limit the amount classified as high value to 20% of a county or parish; determine that § 404 is not a wetlands protection provision.

But this is only part of the story. The Bush "No Net Loss" administration is about to redefine wetlands more narrowly so that fewer controversial wetland acres, such as our own seasonal wetlands, can be protected. If the administration does this, its "no net loss" policy is a joke--as tens of millions of acres of such wetlands could be affected. If the Hayes bill doesn't get us, our "no net loss" President will. It's easy to have "no net loss" if you define your problem out of existence.

It is also critical that President Bush not do administratively what HR 1330 would do legislatively so please write the President and say, "I am gravely concerned that President Bush, who promised a plan for "no net loss" of wetlands, is about to help speed the destruction of wetlands by greatly reducing what qualifies as a wetland. The President must not abandon this pledge he made to the American people." (Again, using your own words would be best and most effective.)

Please!! Do your part, write or call your legislators and the President. Thanks.

You can reach your Representatives at:

For Senators its:
The Honorable _____
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

President George Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington D.C. 20500. (Phone, 1-202-456-1414).

For help on your letter please feel free to call me, Arthur Feinstein, at 415-282-5937.
With your help we will save our wetlands. Thanks !!

Ivan Samuels.

LIEURANCE'S GOLDEN CILES: Les
Lieurance, Cindy Lieurance & friends.
LOONATICKS. Alan Hopkins, David
Wimpfheimer, Dan Singer, Donna Lion, David
Holway.

MENDOLARKS. Dianne Sierra, Chris Patillo,
Barbara Jording & Liz Wharton.

MILLS COLLEGE. John Harris, Kiyomi Cohn,
Kezha Hatier, Francis Wittman.

WANDERING TATTERLS. Tom White, Rosilyn
Bazarto, Julie Lane, Penny Watson.
YELLOW-BELLIED YELLOW-LEGGED
YOSEMITE YAPSUCKERS. Julie Stoughton,
Brendan White.

I WANT TO SUPPORT THE TEAM WITH THE HIGHEST SPECIES TOTAL AT \$ _____ PER SPECIES.

I PLEDGE A TOTAL CONTRIBUTION OF \$ _____, PAYABLE AFTER THE BIRDATHON.

I ENCLOSE A CONTRIBUTION OF \$ _____. (Enclose check payable to Marin Audubon or Golden Gate Audubon.)

I WILL LEAD MY OWN TEAM AND WILL GATHER PLEDGES OF AT LEAST \$1.00 PER SPECIES.

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE TO THE EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____



Snowy Plover and chick.
Keith Hansen

FOLD FORM & SEND TO ADDRESS ON REVERSE

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY



Return address:

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

BAY BIRDATHON 1991
GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY
2530 SAN PABLO AVENUE, SUITE G
BERKELEY, CA 94702

no accident that protein-rich foods (insects) just happen to be plentiful during the time they are vital—during the breeding season. It's all part of the evolutionary process.

When thinking of attracting birds to your yard, don't forget that many of our plants (especially native ones) feed our birds. Lastly, don't forget some form of water—for bathing as well as for drinking. In freezing weather be sure to put out warm water every day.

If you have some new and different ideas for attracting birds, how about sharing them? I'll pass on the most promising. Include any ideas on discouraging squirrels and, especially, rats. I look forward to hearing from you.

—MEG PAULETICH

BURROWING OWL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Golden Gate Audubon is participating in the Burrowing Owl Census being conducted by Dave DeSante and The Institute for Bird Populations, reported on in last month's *Gull*. We are being asked to census approximately forty 5 km. sq. blocks, meaning we need to find at least forty (and preferably twice that many) volunteers willing to spend some early mornings or early evenings in May and June searching for Burrowing Owl nesting sites.

Maps, thorough instructions, and training will be provided; the majority of the census sites will be in Alameda and western Contra Costa Counties minimizing the amount of travel times necessary; and census days can be scheduled at the observer's convenience during the period from May 1 to June 15. This is a wonderful opportunity to participate in a study of critical importance (Burrowing Owl populations have declined precipitously and the species

may well be a candidate for "threatened" or "endangered" status) as well as a chance to find and observe Burrowing Owls closely. Volunteers need not be expert birders; rather, they should be careful and interested observers who can devote a couple of mornings and/or evenings to covering the assigned area.

If interested, please call Ann Dewart, (415) 763-3010; or Leora Feeney, (415) 522-8525.

WHAT THE BOARD DID

At its meeting Feb. 25 your Board of Directors:

Set a donation amount for Audubon Canyon Ranch of \$450 for 1992 budget.

Granted \$200 to the Burrowing Owl study.

Authorized study and draft revision of the by-laws.

Agreed to fund a Burrowing Owl habitat at Candlestick Park.

Authorized mailing of "Action Alert" to cover: toll road from Fremont to Vacaville. Bush's proposal to drill for oil in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge, and California Desert Protection Act.

At its meeting on March 28:

Pledged up to \$2000 (Legal Fund) toward suite by Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund and Save the Bay and others against the State Water Quality Board's omission of attention to water flow.

Authorized up to \$2000 (Sanctuary Fund) for a plan for restoration of illegal landfill at Pier 98 to enhance wetlands.

Heard reports covering the Birdathon, Seed Sale, Chronicle's Great Outdoors Fair, and the upcoming Oakland Festival of the Lake, and the new membership brochure.

LOGOS AND LOGIC

GGAS was not the only chapter to

react with revulsion to the logo (see p. 69) announced by the National Audubon. The Western Tanager of the LA Chapter of national Audubon: "The logo is . . . cold, unimaginative, and just plain ugly, . . . If National Audubon is suffering it is not because of the egret. Any third grader knows that bird conservation is part and parcel of habitat conservation, and global environmental thinking. We don't need a warped blue rectangle to remind us of that—the egret did a fine job!"

1991 AUDUBON CAMPS

The announcement of the **Audubon Camp in the West** in Wyoming, and camps in Maine, Connecticut, Arizona and Texas as well as workshops in Venezuela, Belize and Trinidad & Tobago makes each of them sound well worth doing. At the Camp in the West seven-day sessions are scheduled to begin June 22, July 28 and August 4. Twelve-day sessions start June 30 and July 14. For details and registration write or phone:

Audubon Ecology Camps
National Audubon Society
613 Riversville Rd.
Greenwich, CT 06831
(203) 869-2017

ENDANGERED SPECIES EDUCATION PROGRAM

The California Legislature has funded a program to teach about native endangered species in our schools. We have the largest number of endangered plants and animals in the contiguous 48 states, a number certain to increase as population and development pressures increase.

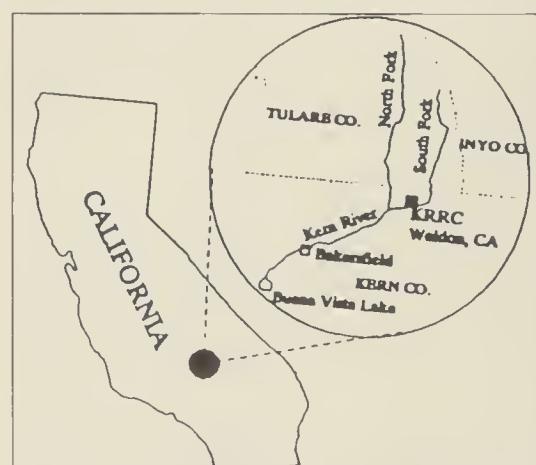
Audubon and the state departments of Education and Fish and Game are joined in a partnership for the program. Richardson Bay Audubon Center has produced a manual for teachers and resource agencies and will coordinate the program.

Schools will "adopt" a local endangered species and habitat, develop an action plan to assist with the species' recovery, and carry out the plan. Plans will be judged and awards for the most effective will be given.

Workshops to help volunteers in Audubon chapters will be scheduled. You can encourage your favorite school to become involved.

KERN RIVER RESEARCH CENTER

A new research activity is springing up on the south fork of the Kern River (see map) at Weldon, CA. The goals of the organization include: conducting research to provide information to wildlife and land management agencies and organizations in the interest of biological diversity and preservation of rare and threatened species; conducting long-term and/or interdisciplinary studies on select species, populations, communities and ecosystems; providing visiting researchers with housing, library, computer and laboratory facilities; providing volunteer and educational opportunities for members and interested individuals.



At the southern end of the Sierra Nevada, the Kern River Valley encompasses the intersection of five of the six vegetative ecosystems of California. Nowhere else in North America is such

diversity found. This leads to a great species diversity. Botanists, entomologists, herpetologists, mammalogists and ornithologists all find this region of great significance due to hybrid zones and extralimital occurrence. In addition the largest contiguous riparian forest in California is in this valley. Current research includes the Yellow-billed Cuckoo population; monitoring changes in habitat and resulting changes in breeding bird populations on riparian habitat restoration sites; a study of Brown-headed Cowbird parasitism on Willow Flycatchers; and Life history and habitat use of Summer Tanagers.

The Center is soliciting memberships, donations and volunteers. Write to Stephen Laymon, Ph.D., Research Director or Co-founder Bob Barnes at P.O. Box 990, Weldon, CA 93283 or phone (619) 378-3345 for information.

VISIT THE KERN CENTER

The Lindsay Museum, 1901 First Ave., Walnut Creek, (415) 938-1978, offers a trip to Kern River Preserve and a course "Birding on Endangered Habitat" led by Steve Laymon, research director of the new Kern River Research Center. For \$140 (non-member of the Museum) which covers transportation, lodging, and snacks. Participants are expected to bring breakfast for the first day, money for breakfast, lunch and dinners. Transportation is in a Museum van. The trip leaves Walnut Creek at 6 a.m. May 17 and returns there about 7 p.m. May 19.

Steve writes: "we will examine riparian habitat restoration sites planted from 1986-1991, discuss why each site is being done, and examine how well the goals are being met. We will look at techniques being used to carry out restoration, as well as techniques to monitor the results and accomplishments. . . . This field can only become more important as the years go by."

NEW AT GGAS OFFICE

We are pleased to announce that the office has received copies of Rich Stallcup's newest book, *Ocean Birds of the Nearshore Pacific*, described as "a guide for the sea-going naturalist." Anyone familiar with Mr. Stallcup's delightful prose style and avian descriptions will surely enjoy this book. For this handsome paperback, the price is \$19.95 plus tax.

We also have a new item, attractively packaged recycled paper stationery for short letters and notes. It seems a particularly appropriate gift for some environmentally aware friend or family member.

SPONSOR A CLASSROOM?

Audubon Adventures is an environmental education program developed by National Audubon for grade 3-6 classrooms. Six times a year teachers receive a packet of 30 newsletters and an instructional guide to use with their students. This year's topics included oceans, recycling, snakes, animal communications and marine mammals.

GGAS sponsored 32 classrooms this past year at a cost of \$30 per classroom. We believe that this is an excellent way to promote awareness of environmental concepts. We know that we could place Audubon Adventures in many more classrooms if we had the money.

If you would like to sponsor an Audubon Adventure classroom next year, send us \$30 (indicate that it's for AA). If you are a teacher, or know a teacher, who would like to use AA next year, please let us know.

—DAVID RICE
Education Committee

BRING THE ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT TO YOUR WORKPLACE

Environmental activists who work in either public or private employment can arrange to have the environmental Federation of California (EFC) included in their annual employee giving campaign.

The EFC is a coalition of 33 environmental groups working cooperatively to raise funds for the environment through workplace giving campaigns. Member organizations include the Sierra Club Foundation, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Greenpeace, Treepeople, Heal the Bay, and GGAS.

Founded in 1982, the EFC is reaching more companies than ever. In 1990, the EFC organized 85 workplace giving campaigns, reaching more than one million dollars for member groups.

Last year the EFC made presentations to a wide range of companies including Apple Computer, the Sacramento MUD, GAP, Inc. and the County of Los Angeles. In a typical campaign, the EFC representative addresses the assembled employees in the company

offices and describes the work of environmental groups, with emphasis on what local groups like GGAS are doing. Employees that wish to make a contribution can specify one or more of the member groups or they can make an undesignated gift which becomes a part of the overall pool. Employees who wish their company or jurisdiction to be included can call EFC at 882-9330.

GGAS has benefitted substantially from being included in this program. In 1990 we received about \$2,000.

SOUND FIELD WORKSHOP

The Nature Sound Society announces its seventh annual Field Recording Workshop to be held June 21st to 23rd, 1991. It features workshops, demonstrations, and field recording opportunities for both beginning and experienced nature sound recordists. Instructors for this year include Gordon Hempton, David Blonski, Clay Reves and Dan Dugan. Held at the San Francisco State University Field Station in the Sierra Nevada. Early registration is advised. For information call Adam Liberman at (415) 549-9364.



GOLDEN TROUT WORKSHOP

Announcement of the annual workshop sponsored by Eastern Sierra, Pasadena, San Bernardino, San Fernando and Santa Barbara chapters of the National Audubon Society held in the southern Sierra, near Mt. Whitney, in the Golden Trout Wilderness has come. Copies are at the GGAS office or are available from Cindi McKerman, 1230 Friar Lane, Redlands, CA 92373. Deadline to register is July 5.

Barbara Rivenes reports that the "Golden Trout camp is lovely—the experience wonderful."

The brochure says, in part, "no pets, no transistor radios, and a three mile hike (500 ft. elevation gain) from the trail head. Guests carry in sleeping bags and personal belongings. (Consult your physician about altitude and medical problems before you register. The camp is at 10,000 feet elevation.) But it is beautiful.

FEATHER RIVER COLLEGE OFFERS SENIORS ONE WEEK SESSIONS

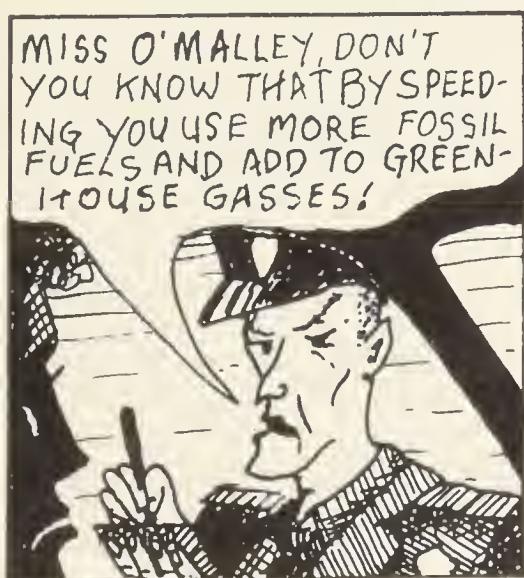
Reports of GGAS participants last year indicate enthusiasm for the place

and the experience. The sponsors say "you are never too old to learn and to enjoy social comraderie in a scenic, mountain environment." The program is offered June 16-22 and July 7-13. The cost is \$285; it entitles the participant to the complete program, lodging (double occupancy in a one-bedroom apartment), three meals a day, Monday through Friday, Saturday breakfast and Sunday dinner, and round trip transportation. Single occupancy is \$30 if available.

Additional information is available from co-ordinators Esther Joplin (863-3037) and Alice Soffiotto (530-0495).

BANK SWALLOW MONITORS

Last month's request to help monitor the Bank Swallow colony at Fort Funston is still in effect. Please call the National Park Service, Ocean District ranger, Norm Simons, at 556-8371 or project director, Judd Howells, at 556-9506. Monitoring the swallows, gaining knowledge of their habits will help protect this threatened species and the fragile nesting cliffs at Fort Funston.



AUDUBON NATIONAL CONVENTION

July 21-27, 1991

Estes Park Center
YMCA of the Rockies

- ★ Learn more about Audubon's international role in protecting forests, wetlands and wildlife.
- ★ Explore the natural history of the Rockies on a variety of unforgettable field trips and tours.
- ★ Hear our keynote speaker, Ted Turner, communicator extraordinaire.

*Youth Programs!
Art Show!
"America's Festival."*

Write today for a brochure with all the details.

Audubon Convention
4150 Darley Avenue
Suite 5A
Boulder, CO 80303

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch (415) 868-9244
Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, CA 94970
Wildlife Sanctuaries & Centers for Nature Education under joint sponsorship of Golden Gate, Madrone, Marin and Sequoia Audubon Societies
Gary Holloway, President

GROVE OF HONOR DEDICATION

On Saturday, March 9, a group of about 125 of our most generous donors gathered in Pitcher Canyon to dedicate the Grove of Honor. Designed by Art Carpenter, the grove is composed of three, clear red cedar slabs, each featuring the names of those benefactors and friends whose generosity has enabled ACR to become the very special sanctuary it is. We wish also to thank Clerin "Zumie" Zumwalt, Suzie Coleman and the Recognition Committee for their efforts in establishing the Grove of Honor and in making its dedication another marvelous ACR event.

"WE'VE GOT BIRDS!"

That's what Nancy Angelesco said when I called to see if there was any "News from the Ranch" I hadn't heard about. Seven pairs of Great Blue Herons finally got busy during the last week of March and established nests. It's about time. By the end of that week the first 8 pairs of Great Egrets had arrived and claimed primo nesting sites. More were arriving daily. At least these guys are about on schedule. Those sneaky Snowies supposedly returned, too. This is their third consecutive year, but it seems they are regulars now. Still, I can never seem to find them no matter how hard I look. You'll have to check it out to see if your luck and skills are better than mine.

You have until July 14 to enjoy the Ranch this year, so don't miss it. Although the Stinson Beach route, Hwy. 1, remains out, the Mt. Tam route is open, or just take an extra 20 minutes and take Sir Frances Drake Blvd. to Olema, then drive south about 12 miles to the Ranch.

WHOOPS!

I almost forgot to tell you Ken Browning has returned for his second year as Weekend Coordinator. Ken's a great guy who has the touch to make our weekends go smoothly. Welcome back Ken.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS IN PROGRESS

Our free spring school programs started March 13 and will run through June 4. These are our very successful programs at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve geared for elementary school students. Of course the schedule is full for this spring, but there may still be available dates for next fall's program. Call Nancy at (415) 868-9244 to plan a visit for your class.

SPRING SEMINARS

May 18 marks our "7th Annual Downhill Hike at Bolinas Lagoon Preserve" and "The Natural History of Tomales Bay at the Cypress Grove Preserve, both are \$20. Our butterfly counts in Marin (June 29) and Sonoma (June 30) counties include a "Getting to Know the Critters Night" on June 26, all for a bargain five bucks. A

bargain at the price is our latest edition of "Natural History for Teachers," July 15-19, at all three of our major preserves. It includes five days of intensive education and three semester units, all for only \$175. Register for any of these programs by calling (415) 868-9244.

—DAN MURPHY

STATE OF THE ESTUARY

The San Francisco Estuary Project and the Aquatic Habitat Institute plan a conference May 30 and 31 (Berkeley, technical) and June 1 (San Francisco, public education). For a conference brochure, information, or reservations call (415) 464-7990. Student rates are available. Local, national and international scientists have been invited to present papers. The State of the Estuary Report will be presented on Saturday, with afternoon workshops in pollutants, biological resources, freshwater flows, wetlands, dredging activities and land use.

GIFTS and BEQUESTS FOR GGAS

In memory of

Ted Dement

Fred Hellman

Gift of

Mavaurneen Harshman

Nancy Conzett

T.I.F.O.

Nancy Conzett

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull* as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

**Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.****Office: 843-2222**2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G
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Nicki SpillaneDan Murphy
Bruce Howard**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RARE BIRD ALERT (recorded) (415) 528-0288
Update: 524-5592**

Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward **THE GULL**. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes **AUDUBON** Magazine and **THE GULL**; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving **THE GULL**. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to **THE GULL** separately \$10 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917,
and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.